

**Status of IT Park at Guwahati**

**2114. DR.(SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of I.T. Park at Guwahati and when is it likely to become functional;

(b) whether it is a fact that in order to facilitate the use of this I.T. Park by the entrepreneurs, the earth station for independent Gateway at Guwahati and optical fibre networking in Guwahati would be essential; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to simultaneously complete these works with the I.T. Park?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):** (a) to (c) The Software Technology Park (STP) at Guwahati is targetted to become functional by August 2000.

An earth station is required to provide High Speed Data Communication (HSDC) facility to the software exporting units in the STP complex. Optical fibre or Radio Link would be required to extend the HSDC facility to outside units.

The Earth station is being commissioned and is likely to become operational by August, 2000. The Optical fibre connectivity, if required, will be leased from the Department of Telecommunication or other authorised service providers.

**Mortgage of Children in Sivakasi**

**2115. SHRI R. MARGABANDU:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of mortgage of children in Sivakasi fire work factories; and

(b) what are the steps taken to release the mortgage of Children?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF**